

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of March 11, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 19-30 are pending and have been amended.

Claims 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Pinder et al. and further in view of Oka. Claims 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over AAPA in view of Pinder et al.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite a message issuing unit configured to issue a message indicating that a requested action is prohibited and indicating a time period that allows a requested action, the message being issued when the judging unit judges that the requested operation is not executable at a requested time. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, page 25, lines 3-10. Similar amendments have been made to the remaining claims.

The present claims are directed to allowing access to information whereby the ability to access that information changes over time. For example, one may pay a higher premium for new information as opposed to archived information. Thus, when an article is recent, the accessibility may be denied unless one has a subscription to the source of the information, for example, but over time, the information may become less valuable and available to everyone. The claims, as amended, require a message issuing unit, or issuing a message, when a requested action is prohibited and indicating a time period that allows a requested action.

A message issuing unit as claimed is neither taught nor suggested in AAPA, Pinder et al., and Oka. AAPA discloses that the judging section 2004 issues a command for carrying out the requested operation if the condition judging section 2004 judges that the requested operation is authorized (specification page 3, lines 4-22, for example). However, AAPA does not teach or suggest issuing a message indicating that a requested action is prohibited at a requested time and indicating a time period that allows a requested action in a case where judging section 2004 judges that the requested operation is not authorized.

Pinder determines whether a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) 333 is authorized to receive the requested service (see, for example, column 9, lines 50-55); however, when a DHCT 333 is not authorized, Pinder does not teach or suggest issuing a message indicating that a requested action is prohibited at a requested time and indicating a time period that allows a requested action.

Oka merely discloses a technique of automatically forming a system outline diagram (Fig. 2) of the data processing operations using information classified into processing operations associated with an input system, a file system, and an output system (Abstract, column 3, lines 29-34 and the like). Oka fails to disclose issuing a message indicating that a requested action is prohibited at a requested time and indicating a time period that allows a requested action in a case where it is determined that a requested operation is not executable.

Additionally, new dependent claim 31 sets forth that execution of the printing operation and execution of the storage operation are prohibited until a certain period of time passes and permitted after the certain period of time passes. Support for this new claim may be found in the specification page, lines 18-22. This feature is neither taught nor suggested in AAPA, Pinder et al., and Oka.

Consequently, even if AAPA is combined with Pinder et al. and Oka, the instant claims would have not been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 08/932,543
Amendment dated December 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2005

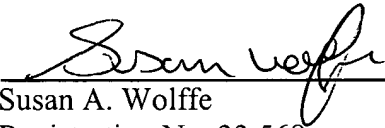
CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: 12/6/05

By: 

Susan A. Wolffe
Registration No. 33,568

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001